REMARKS

The Office Action has been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 17-22, 24-27, 29-33, and 35-37 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 17-22, 24-27, 29, 31 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 17, 20, 27, 31, and 37 are now amended, thereby obviating this rejection.

Claims 17-22, 24-27, 29-33, and 35-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as lacking both enablement and adequate written description. Both rejections are respectfully traversed and will be discussed together.

First of all, it is not understood why the claims are rejected as not being enabled for "all" possible subjects since these subjects are limited to those in need of treatment or prevention of rejection of transplanted organs, tissues or cells.

Secondly, with regard to the examiner's position that the skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed structure of other RANTES receptor antagonists, the examiner's attention is invited to page 6, lines 8-14, of the present specification where it is disclosed that examples of such antagonists are disclosed in the cited patent documents EP 0906954 A1, WO 98/06751, WO

96/17935 and WO 97/44462, copies of which are attached hereto for the examiner's consideration. As taught in EP 0906954A1, specific examples of amino-terminally truncated RANTES missing the first two N-terminal residues and amino-terminally truncated MCP-2 missing the first five N-terminal residues (shown in Fig. 1 and disclosed in e.g., paragraphs [0010] to [0012]) have chemokine antagonist activity. Similarly, WO 98/06751 teaches N-terminally truncated antagonists of chemokines MCP-3, RANTES and MIP-1α, which chemokines bind to RANTES receptors. See page 4, line 18 to page 5 and page 21, beginning with the first full paragraph. WO 96/17935 further discloses antagonists in which the N-terminally extended methionine residue in Met-RANTES is replaced with an N-terminally extended leucine or an N-terminally extended glutamine. See WO 96/17935, page 4, first full paragraph to page 5, line 5.

Accordingly, a representative number of N-terminally truncated or extended chemokine receptor antagonists other than Met-RANTES are disclosed in the specification and in the prior art. Those of skill in the art would reasonably expect that similar results, as were observed with Met-RANTES, would be found with these other N-terminally truncated or extended chemokine receptor antagonists.

With regard to the dosage of cyclosporin, guidance is provided in the specification by the dosage used in combination

with Met-RANTES. As those of skill in the art would reasonably expect similar results with the above-described N-terminally truncated or extended chemokine receptor antagonists, the range or optimal dosage to be used in the presently claimed method can readily be determined with mere routine experimentation.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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